# 100,000 Out of Work

# STORMONT isn't working

éirígí

## Fuel Poverty

•Over 1,000 people, many of them elderly, died last winter in the Six Counties due to cold-related illnesses through not being able to properly heat their own homes.

•It's not just older people who suffer. While 49 per cent of people in the Six Counties who are in fuel poverty are over 60 years old, 63 per cent of lone parents are also in fuel poverty.

•At the end of the first decade in the 21st century, one in every two households in the Six Counties cannot afford to properly heat their homes.

•Under the Stormont administration, fuel poverty has actually worsened.

•The British government is considering raising the age level for entitlement to the Winter Fuel Payment to 70 and cutting the Cold Weather Payment from £25 per week to £8.

•Stormont politicians are powerless to prevent this.

## Public Services

•In their Programme for Government 2008-11, all the Stormont parties agreed to implement cut-backs in public sector spending of over £1.6 billion.

•In March 2010, the Stormont executive agreed to implement additional cuts in public spending of over £350 million.

•Public service cuts disproportionately impact upon the less well off in society.

•The average annual cut in public spending on each of the poorest 10 per cent of households will be £1,344 (the equivalent of 20.5 per cent of their household income); whereas the average annual cut in public spending on each of the richest 10 per cent of households will be £1,135 (the equivalent of 1.6 per cent of household income).

•Right across the Six Counties, there is a need for more, not less, public service workers – as frontline health staff in hospitals to staff in education and training.

## Unemployment

•58,000+ people are officially classed as unemployed in the Six Counties: half of them for over one year.

•Almost 50,000 other people, classed as 'economically inactive', are also seeking work.

•The Stormont executive won't admit that almost 110,000 people, or over 13 per cent of the population, are presently seeking jobs in the Six Counties – a figure not seen since the Thatcher years of the 1980s.

•In September 2010, there were a total of 6,891 unfilled vacancies. If all those were filled, over 100,000 would still be without work. Stormont isn't working for them.

•Bodies like the Confederation of British Industry are trying to exploit this crisis by lobbying for a cut in the minimum wage – in effect, trying to build a pool of cheap labour in order to make more profits.

•The minimum wage ensures that individuals and families can earn an income above the relative poverty line. Imposing cuts on the weekly income of the lowest paid individuals and families does not make social, economic or moral sense.

•In contrast, the richest people in both Britain and Ireland continue to boost their own personal assets by tens of billions of pounds. They're clearly not sharing the pain. Stormont can't and won't make them share their wealth.

## Youth

•Unemployment levels in the Six Counties for young people aged 18-25 are at a record high, with 1 in every 5 of that age group without work.

•18,337 under-25s (31.9 per cent of all claimants) across the Six Counties were unemployed in October 2010 and young males were two and half times more likely to be unemployed than young women.

•Most young people leaving school cannot get apprenticeships to learn a trade.

•Ever-increasing numbers of young, university graduates cannot get jobs.

•With university places to be cut even further, increased fees and fear of increased debts, many young people in the Six Counties will be excluded from third level education, and universities will again become the exclusive preserve for the sons and daughters of the rich.

•Cuts to youth service provision and to the community and voluntary sector will leave many young people at risk and without access to safe and secure places to meet, socialise or learn new skills.

•Stormont has no policies in place to address the crisis faced daily by our young people.

## Benefit Cuts

•The Six Counties is not a place of prosperity. Up to 30 per cent of the population exist solely on benefits which are now under attack and which have significantly reduced in value in recent years.

•The cost of living for low income families does not provide scope to cut their incomes other than by forcing society's poorest families into deeper levels of poverty.

•The cap being put on Housing Benefit will directly hit thousands of people in private landlord accommodation across the Six Counties.

•Freezing Child Benefit and cutting Tax Credits will inevitably increase child poverty.

•Pensions and benefits will not keep track with the rising cost of living.

•The pension age is to be raised to 66 – how much higher in future?

•The abolition of Income Support will lead to hardship for parents, families and carers, particularly those looking after vulnerable or disabled family members.

•The unemployed, those with caring responsibilities, the ill, single parents with young children will be forced to work for benefits – providing a cheap labour force for ruthless employers to undermine workers' wages.

•Working families dependent on tax credits, or the poor dependent on benefits, did not create the economic crisis. They should not pay for the greed of others.

# SLASH STORMONT NOT SERVICES

## níl stormont ag obair

éirígí

www.eirigi.org

# The Alternative

It doesn't have to be this way. The wealth of this country belongs, of right, to the people of this country, not to the British government, their accomplices at Stormont, multinational companies or a small class of native capitalists.
It is time to recognise what has failed the working people of Ireland. Capitalism has failed, British rule has failed, partition has failed and Stormont has failed. It is time to start laying the foundation stones of a new society – a society based on socialism and national independence.
The starting point is fighting back. Fighting to defend public services and workers' wages and conditions; fighting against unemployment and British government-Stormont cutbacks.

# An Mhalairt

Ní gá dó bheith mar seo. Is le muintir na tíre seo saibhreas na tíre seo de cheart, ní le rialtas na Breataine, ná a gcomhchoirithe ag Stormont, ná comhlachtaí ilnáisiúnta ná aicme bheag de chaipitlithe dúchasacha.
Is mithid aithint cad é a theip ar lucht oibre na hÉireann. Theip ar an chaipitleachas, theip ar riail na Breataine, theip ar chríochdheighilt agus theip ar Stormont. Is mithid tosnú ar bhunchlocha sochaí nua a chur – sochaí bunaithe ar an sóisialachas agus ar shaoirse náisiúnta.
Is í an aistroid an phointe tosaigh. Troid le seirbhísí poiblí agus le pá agus coinníollacha oibrithe a chosaint; troid in éadan díthostaíochta agus ghiorruithe rialtas na Breataine/Stormont.

## Public services must be protected and workers' wages and conditions defended.

éirígí

www.eirigi.org

# join éirígí

éirígí is made up of ordinary people who have decided to take a stand and fight for a better future for their families, their communities and their country. People just like you. If you are interested in joining éirígí or helping us in some way, please:

**Email: eirigimembership@gmail.com**
**Phone: 00353(0) 862367298**
**Post: éirígí PO BOX 10769, Dublin 6**